

ABSTRACT

A medical IV catheter is described comprising a needle cannula having a distal point, a proximal end and further having a shaft with a circumference, a tip protector having a base the tip protector defining an opening to receive the needle cannula shaft and the tip protector is slideably mounted thereon, means coupled to the tip protector for blocking the tip protector opening so as to enclose the needle cannula distal point within the tip protector, a gasket coupled to the tip protector base defining an opening of a size to receive the needle cannula shaft, means coupled to the needle cannula shaft impeding movement of the tip protector along the needle cannula shaft beyond a pre-determined distance from the needle cannula distal point, and a flash chamber coupled to the needle cannula at the needle cannula proximal end.